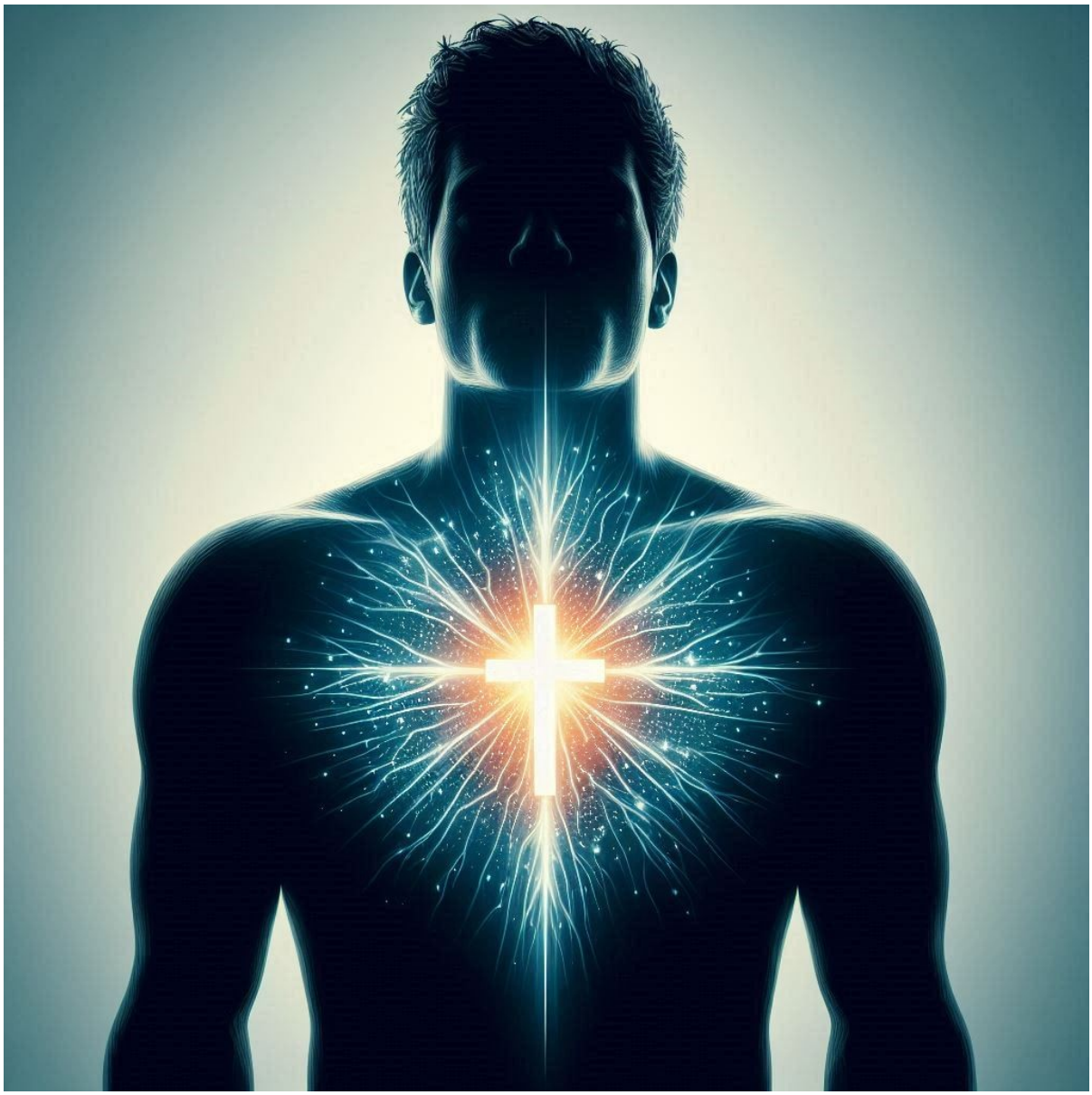
The WAY of Christ

The secret to living an overcoming life



"I am the WAY, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

(John 14:6)

Who was Jesus? This is the question many ponder, and it is a good one. He was the Word of God to all those who might listen, (John 8:47, John 1:14) but is that, truly, the question we really need to be asking? I think not!

The true question we need to ask is, why did He come?

Many have searched the scriptures for this secret, and in doing so they have found some understanding, but the essence of the truth as described in scripture has been diluted by man and his desire for the world.

So, what is the truth, you might ask. Well, the truth is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Word of God, the Son of Man, came because of sin in the world. **Not to allow sin to continue**, but to condemn sin in the flesh.

Romans 8:3

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

You see, this is where all things change for many who try to understand what is taking place in this passage. Some say that the scriptures are saying that Jesus did it all on the cross for us, so sin accountability is now gone. Calling all things works of the flesh, but that is not true.

Stay with me my friend and I will show you…

Understanding a secret truth

To understand everything, you must go back to before the flood when God still stood among us and taught us himself. Man had just learned this, “good and evil”, and these tainted thoughts and ideas were still fairly new to us. As seen in the Old Testament, God himself speaks to Cain and Able regarding this new way of thinking and at this point in time, sin was not applied to men in the same way as now. It was still before the Law. Things were still new to man and there was not much history for man to follow.

Romans 5:12-14

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

It also says:

Acts 17:30-31

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

So, what does this mean?

This means that there is a way of living that **is** and **is not** acceptable to God. In the past, He was more patient because this life was new to us. We had no history with “Good and Evil” in the mind. So, God began by teaching us himself, and in the story of Cain and Able, we can see this happening. God had set up the sacrifice/offering as a lesson of thankfulness. We know God is teaching them because Cain and Able are directly chastised or praised by God in these writings.

God speaking to Cain and Able. Remember man was created in God’s image so we looked like Him.

It was when God spoke to Cain in scripture that we can really get an idea of what God was planning in the future. But Cain would struggle with this difficult lesson and until Christ came, not many would do well at understanding this lesson either. God would have to “Overlook” many sins until that appointed time of Christ had come. Let’s read about this lesson and draw from the “Well of Life”.

Genesis 4:3-7

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering
of the fruit of the ground,

4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their
fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So, Cain was
very angry, and his face fell.

6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your
face fallen?

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do
well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you,
but you must rule over it.”

As you can see in verses 5 and 6, God was with Cain when He instructed him. It was when Cain’s face fell that God took notice. I believe that God was standing there with Cain. There would be no reason for Cain to make a face if there was no one to see it. Yet Cain did make his face change so that God would respond. God was bringing up the lack of heart-filled love Cain had for his Lord and therefore Cain was behaving like a child before the Lord thy God.

Even though we can see proof that God taught us himself at first, this is not the secret. The secret is found in the next verse. Verse 7.

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you**, but you must rule over it.”

In this part of the story, God is trying to teach Cain. He is telling him about sin and how it works. God knew the

WAY but had not yet lived it in man’s flesh so He could only speak about it. He could not yet show it from the inside. You see, sin was to be “**Ruled Over**”, not the other way around. **Now let's fast forward in time.**

God speaking to Cain.

As time passed man grew more and more evil in their imaginations. God even stated that He was sorry He ever created man. (Genesis 6:5-6) Even though it was this way in the heart of God because of what He saw in man, He knew there would one day be a way that man could overcome sin, but before that could happen, the whole story of God and man needed to play out to precisely the right moment. (Romans 5:6-8)

It was at this time that God would become an example of the very thing that He had told Cain those many years ago saying, “**Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you**, but you must rule over it.”

The history of God and man

Can you see what God’s plan was, my friend? It is not that Christ came to say to all men, “I have come so that you may sin.” He came to say that all have sin in them, but I have come to show you how NOT to sin in the eyes of the Father.

A MAN WITHOUT SIN!!! **BLASPHEMY!!!!**

Yes, this is how it is with us. Teachers of men have watered down the Word of God so that we can all be comfortable in sinning.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time is coming when people will not
endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will
accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off
into myths.

(All of this is just the beginning of understanding. Stay with me a little longer and I will prove it to you.)

In the past a man sinned (Adam), and in doing so, man would carry this sin from generation to generation in his flesh through being born of a woman. This is how Jesus inherited this same sinful nature. It was not that each man chose a sinful nature, he was born with it. It came from the first Adam. (Romans 5:12-13) It was because of this sin in man that Jesus came. He came to condemn sin in the flesh, where it existed in man. (Romans 8:3-4)

It was in this place, where sin existed, that needed to be dealt with. Very few men had ruled over this sinful flesh and God was over it. He was coming to help us. He was coming Himself to experience this flesh. He was going to find a way through the flesh. He was going to become the first of many brethren who would do the same. He was going to overcome it. He was coming to conquer the world and its lusts, and He would share this victory with all those who dared to conquer the world also. (Rev. 2:7, Rev. 2:11, Rev. 2:17, Rev. 2:26-

29, Rev. 3:5, Rev. 3:12, Rev. 3:21, and Rev.21:6-8 and more)

His plan is obvious to all those who will hear the truth. Christ would use a very awesome power to help those who would come after Him. He would send the Holy Spirit, who had the mind of Christ in Him. It would be in the future, that this “Mind of Christ” would aid all who would be a disciple.

BUT A DISCIPLE OF WHAT? **OF SIN?**

IS THAT WHAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD TEACHES AND REMINDS US OF? GOD FORBID!!!

Mat. 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, **let him deny himself** and take up his cross and follow me.

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Basically, it's like this: God suffered in the flesh because He denied himself. He fought his sinful nature, and it hurt to do it. In fact, He resisted his own will so much and it hurt so badly, that He shed blood-filled sweat because the stress was so great it burst the capillaries in His skin. He even made it known that this is what He was doing because He said to the Father, “The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” and also “Not my will but thy will be done.”

It was the flesh that God came to deal with, not only that but to also bring forth a gift. A sacrifice for sins. This was for your past sins, to reconcile you to Himself

so that you had a fresh start in Christ, NOT so you could keep your sins in the future! **Not so you can still be sinful!!** If this were the truth, then Christ would be the author of sin, and His work would have done away with any righteous requirement!

What about Grace?

A man must seek the truth from all of the Word of God, not just part of it. Grace is not applied to wrong intentions. Only innocent ones.

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if **we** sin willfully after **we** have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which **he** was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "**The LORD will judge His people**."

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

You see, there is sin that leads to death and there is sin that does not lead to death/guilt. (1 John 5:16, Romans 7:15-25) This means that there is sin you intended to do and there is sin that you did not intend on doing. Grace only covers the unintended sin (This includes

resisted failures), willful sin is not covered, and if not repented of, you will go to death/Hell over it.

TO HELL??

Yes, absolutely, and according to this passage along with others, you must not return to that sin, or you will find no Grace. You will be praying into the air. Unless you truly stop. Then you can return to the Gift of Grace. In this way, Christ is a minister of sinlessness, not a minister of sin.

The Gospel is that Christ became the WAY. He conquered sin in the flesh, and He gave a WAY for you to do it also. You must go through Him.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the WAY, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The Holy Spirit sharing the mind of Christ to those who follow Him

He is also known as the door:

John 10:9

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

He is also the Sheperd who calls His sheep to follow Him:

John 10:27

27 My sheep **hear My voice, and I know them**, and they follow Me.

Here Christ is saying that those who read the Word and understand, hear His voice and follow His **WAY**.

His way is NO SIN!

At all!

You may ask, “How could this be possible?”. Well, it starts with understanding accountability. What is sin and when are you guilty of sin? This is also where understanding frees you from the devil's trap. Satan has many believing that all bad thoughts and acts are counted as sins and lead to death. This is a lie from Hell itself. If that were true, then Christ would be a grave sinner.

Let me show you what it means to sin.

In times past God overlooked many of the sins of man because of their ignorance. (Acts 17:30-31) This is significant because that means some sins do not lead to judgment. (1 John 5:16)

Did you catch that? <u>There are sins that God will not put on your account!</u>

Grace!!!

So now that we know that, not all sins are accounted to us by God, the only real next logical question is, “Which sins **are** accounted to us?”

To get this answer we must do a process of elimination. Satan would have you believe that all thoughts that are contrary to the will of God are sins, and so Satan will accuse you in your mind, thus, when you don’t understand the truth, you feel guilty and count all

thoughts as sins also. This lie has birthed a new doctrine. A doctrine of what I call, “Super Grace”. This is, of course, necessary in the minds of those who the devil has caused to err about accountability. In this thinking when Jesus said, “It is finished” they believe He is saying this is the end of righteousness. Not openly of course, but if you can sin now and rest in the shadow of Christ’s righteous life, then ultimately, that is what you are grateful for. After all, you need this because of the great sinfulness you can never escape in yourself. (According to Satan’s accusations in the mind.)

But let's look at a few things and check this thinking.

Luke 4:5-8 KJV

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world **in a moment of time.**

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

It is here that you can see Satan is using the mind to tempt.

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world **in a moment of time.**

It was not a thought that could be counted as a sin. If it were the thought, then Jesus would have sinned. And it was not the fact that you want what you are thinking that is sin either. Look at what it says.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 **If thou therefore wilt worship me**, all shall be thine.

What you cannot say here is that Jesus did NOT desire what He had been offered. If that were true, then Jesus did not go out into the wilderness to be tempted, and the scripture has lied. But He did go to be tempted. Temptation is a desire that comes from the sin in your flesh. The sin that desires things outside the will of God, but God chooses what He counts against a person NOT the Accuser (Satan)!! God did not count the thoughts, nor the feelings that first came up in Christ as sin. It was when they came, that God waited for the choices of the heart to be made, then He would choose the accountability by the power of being God. As seen here you can see everything about the life of Christ and what we must also do in just 4 verses. Jesus did not let the moment become so big in His mind that God was pushed out. He remembered God in the temptation.

8 **And Jesus answered and said unto him**, *Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Sin never took place because Christ denied himself for the will of God. END OF STORY!

Not really the end of the story, but that is pretty much how it works. We do as He did, and we become His brethren. We do not sin; in the same way, He did not sin. We stop sin from forming. Being tempted is not the same as sin. Wanting something is not the same as sin. Jesus resisted the flesh, and He condemned sin in **His** flesh, not in yours. Yet in a way He did in yours also, by showing you how to do it.

Hebrews 12:2-4

[2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

[3] For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

[4] Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

It was the life of Christ and what He did is what makes up the Gospel. He resisted the temptation of sin, and now that He has done it, we can do it too! He has shown us the WAY! He has also given us His Spirit to help us. The Bible teaches that there is a WAY out of all temptation.

1 Cor. 10:13

[13] There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; **but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

The “way of escape” is to remember God in the temptation, just as Joseph did when Potiphar’s wife

tempted him. (Gen. 39:9-12) He thought, “How can I sin against God?”. This is why Paul said that to be Spiritually minded is life, because you find the “way of escape”. Make no mistake, the battlefield is in the mind and when you resist the flesh and deny yourself, it will be painful. That is because you are warring against the sin in your flesh. But that is not the sin that is counted against you. Only conscience sin is your fight. Only the things God has shown you. Only things you have “Light” about. One thing at a time in you, not all sin in you at once.

That is why God has said that the old man must die in baptism. It is so that the new man inside can live. You are to be reborn with a clear conscience, starting new. Ready for anything that comes to the mind that must be resisted for the will of God. You cannot and will not stop the thoughts from coming, but that is NOT a sin. It is temptation, but you must arm yourself with the mind of Christ.

The new man living inside with a clear conscience

If there are those who say that this is not true, then think of this. If Christ is your Lord and you believe He remained sinless all the way to the cross then remember, Jesus was in great pain in the garden of Gethsemane. So much so that He bled from resisting his own will/flesh. The will of His body and His mind. You cannot say that this is not the case because He said to the Father, “Let not my will but Thy will be done.” This is proof that Jesus wanted something that could have the potential of being a sin. In this case, it would have been a sin **if** Jesus had agreed with his own will, but He did not agree with it. On the contrary, He resisted it. He hated His own will/desires in His flesh because it was evil and because it was His enemy. The Father’s will was truth and the Spirit in Him knew it. So, He fought with the Spirit in His mind.

But if it were counted to Christ as a sin for wanting something selfish or lustful, then He would have had no chance, and He would need another to go before him to the cross also as a purer sacrifice than He. Just as these other doctrines say He is for them.

Jesus walking away from the cross while another goes in his place

But what about what Jesus said in Matthew 5:28?

We must all remember what Satan did when he tempted Christ. Satan not only spoke of the things that were enticing through the flesh, (“If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”) he also tried to cause confusion and distractions with the Word of God itself.

Satan, in the trial of the wilderness, referred to **Palms 91:11-12** when he spoke to Jesus to try to get him to sin. In this way, we can see that Satan can use the

Word to cause one to stumble. This is very important to know because this is exactly what has been done with Matthew 5:28. Let me show you how.

Matthew 5:27-28

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath **committed adultery with her already in his heart.**

In this passage, many say that it is the thought that Jesus is speaking about and in this case, this man had sinned, but this is a misinterpretation because this can't be just a thought or desire. If that were true then no man could be tempted, man could only sin. If a man can be tempted then there must be a thought and a desire, or what would you say that temptation is? If you do not desire the thing, then that is not temptation. Therefore, this interpretation is incorrect.

So, what could it be then? It is said that God will judge the intent of a man’s heart, not just his actions.

In 1 Samual we can see such a perspective has always been known to the Jews. God reveals the way He judges, and these ways are not like the ways of man.

1 Samual 16:7

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the **LORD looketh on the heart**.

Even so, He also reveals that nothing has changed when it comes to this judgment. He will use this same platform to judge all men in the future.

Revelation 2:23

[23] I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds **and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

This example of judging the “intent of the heart” is found all throughout scripture as a basis of judging for even those who did not do the deed itself but agreed with such evil in the heart. Certainly, we all understand this thinking.

Many Christians openly recognize this thinking even when it comes to Paul who agreed with the killing of Steven, when he held the garments of those who stoned him. If you support and agree with an evil act in your heart to do the thing, then Jesus is saying you are guilty. He is saying you will not escape this.

Remember, Yeshua (Jesus) did not sin, and he was tempted. Being tempted means you have a thought and a desire. Be careful you do not become confused. Fight against all evil thoughts and desires and it will not make it into the heart.

IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR PEOPLE TO SEE THIS CLEARLY IN THE SCRIPTURES?

It is because of their faith. Honesty is forced into the heart by believing that God is real. Honesty is the compelling reason Jesus, Paul, and all the Apostles

pushed **faith** so greatly. There are levels to believing. That is evident when Christ says, “Oh ye of little faith”. (Mat. 8:26) It is a true statement to say, “For every slight unbelief there will always be a slight compromise.” Our flesh is strong, and it is uncomfortable and even painful to resist it, so our flesh naturally pushes back on our opinions and influences us in almost everything we feel in this life. It is this exact pressure that shapes the minds of many.

It can be too much to handle, so a compromise must exist in most of us, and at any given moment, something more acceptable can be brought into our opinions. Something that does not disturb the flesh too much, and so making peace with the flesh and its will. The Word calls this being carnally minded. And the longer you are in this state, the harder it is to break free from it. The “old man” has returned, if he has left at all, and has taken his seat back at the helm once again.

BUT HOW DOES ONE BREAK FREE AGAIN?

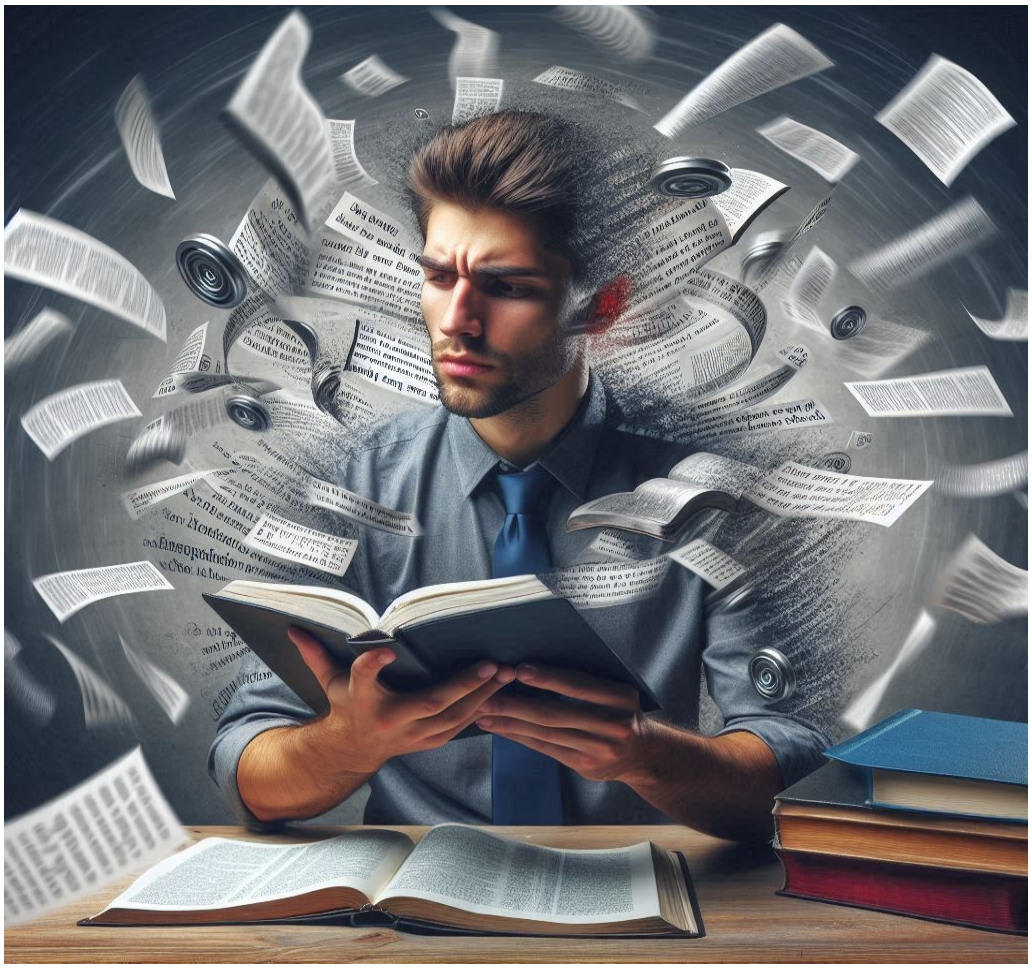
That person must believe. Faith is the key. You see, if a man truly believes, then his mind will be opened to the Word, and then what I am saying would be redundant to him because that man would already see the WAY of Christ in the Word.

Many say they believe but then forget about God until the appointed time to read the Word, pray, or go to church, but this is not faith. It only has an appearance of Godliness, but it denies the power of it. (2 Tim. 3:5) This kind of faith is watered down. It lacks real

substance. And because of this, the Word loses its clarity, and this person needs to be taught by men which is the opposite of what the Word says a man of God should be. (1 John 2:27)

1 John 2:27

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.



A man trying to discern the Word with no faith

It was Christ who sent the Helper. (John 14:26) It is through the Spirit of God that we receive

understanding if we have the faith to receive it. Faith is one of the most powerful attributes God can give a man. Without it, a man can do nothing, but with it, a man can do all things because his belief aligns him with God.

Think of it this way. If I truly believed that God was coming to judge me in 6 hours. I mean really, in 6 hours. An angel showed up in my house, stood before me, and told me, “He will be here in 6 hours to judge you.” And then left. What kind of thinking would I have? I would be freaking out if I was in the world this whole time. I mean, at first, I would be shocked to see an angel, but then I would be scared.

WHY?

Because I did not genuinely believe in the spiritual world that I claimed existed. I was an unbeliever by those standards. That was until an angel showed up in my living room. All of a sudden, God was on my mind, and would be, for the FULL 6 hours. Everything I had done would be repented of and I would be walking rightly in my mind waiting for Him to show up. “NOW”, I would be Spiritually minded. I would be watching and judging every thought, just as He said we must do. “NOW”, the world did not matter. Even if a man showed up at my door 10 minutes after the angel had left, and said, “You are the Sweepstakes Winner!! Here is your check for 50 million dollars!!” Before he was done speaking, the door would slam in his face while he stood there dumbfounded, holding that worthless giant check.

You see, we are supposed to be in the world but not of the world. The world, in this situation, no longer had power over me. Nor its desires. My newfound faith overpowered the flesh easily in this scenario. But this is what all of us want, we all want God to show up. We all want some sort of sign before we choose to fully believe, but this is not what God wanted because signs do not create lasting belief. He stood before us once at the beginning of time, and this did not produce a righteous living. Now God has chosen HOPE. It will be this hope through faith that will save you. Man would be required to use faith so that man would change from within, not just without.

It is when you truly believe that God exists and that Christ and the spiritual world are inevitably coming in a not-so-distant future, that you understand things as they are written. Faith will then give you power through the Holy Spirit to see and care about what you are reading.

If the faith in a man is weak, then he will read and maybe understand, but then when he stops reading, he returns to the “real world” he lives in and forgets what he just read, at least until he comes back to the appointed time for God. (James 1:24)

Man reading and understanding the Word

What God first began to teach Cain, He completed with Christ. It was at this moment that the overcoming life would begin. The Kingdom of God had now come to earth. Now it was to be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Mat. 6:10) Christ would reign on earth in the hearts and minds of men. (Heb. 10:15-16) Man would know good and evil and rule over the evil in himself. It will be put under the feet of the disciples of Christ. They would have the power to overcome sin as Jesus overcame and the Lord God will give them the crown of life and share his throne with them.

Christ’s Earthly work completed

In this way we have become brethren. We have a chance to please God just as He has intended and knowing where we stand with God when it comes to sin is the key. Do not let anyone steal this grace from you. Know yourself in a deeper way. As you overcome a sin, practice yourself subduing it. No sin is on your account if you did it and you did not know it was a sin. In this case, you do the very thing you hate, as Paul has described in Rom. 7:15-20. This comes from the sin inside you that pops out unintentionally.

These things can be in the form of an outburst of frustration because of a sudden event or surprise, saying something that was not exactly accurate when speaking too fast or saying/doing something insensitive because of not paying attention to your words/actions closely. Although these things are sinful, they are not conscience and even though you must work on these as you receive “Light” from the Spirit, they are not on your account. Only the ones done with malice.

Think of it this way. If you know it is wrong, then do not do it. If it is hard not to do it, then welcome to the fight brethren of Christ. Paul put it like this.

2 Timothy 4:5-7

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Paul writing his last letter to Timothy before his death

PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Bless you! I pray that what you have read will not disappear from your thoughts as soon as you set this small group of words down. It is profoundly possible for you to go through each day without sinning. My hope is that this becomes a way of life for you. And if someone

is not sure what might be sin and what might not be sin, then let the Spirit of God guide you into all truth.

Remember God’s teaching. Deny this flesh with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength, because that is loving God with all you have. Then let your heart be filled with joy because you always keep God in your mind and not the world. Allowing a spiritual mind to cast down all evil imginations and in doing so, no sin can ever touch you. This is well pleasing to God, because of your faith. Grace and peace be with you, “Brethren of Christ”. Amen!

You as an Overcoming Believer

The WAY of Christ

By Joey Vigreux

Contact me to find out more

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